ECOS – How's the roll down REALLY going?

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ECOS in review

- Total number of registered ECOS users

  - Total - 4,928 (2,906)
    - State users - 572 (502)
    - Recipient agency – 3,879 (2,192)
    - Industry (processors & warehouses) – 323 (65)
    - USDA users - 154 (147)

- States using ECOS with their RA's

  - Recipients ordering
    - VA, CT, GA, NC, UT, FL, MD, NE, KY, OH-EFAP
  - Limited use
    - CA, MI, NY, TX, TN

Data as of March 28, 2006

ECOS Enhancements 2005

- Rapid Alert System
  - Provides quick communications for potential food safety/bio-security emergencies

- Report Changes
  - CSV format to include a header row with data
  - Enhanced Req. Entitlement to include Meal Counts
  - Pre-Order report

- Shipment Receipt function
  - Direct Ship schools can order and receive thru ECOS

- Consistent unit of measure
  - Commodity that is delivered in cases will be ordered in cases

ECOS Enhancements 2005 (cont)

- State notification on Entitlement levels at R/A
  - Optional email notification plus new reports

- Modify requisitions
  - R/A can make their own corrections, to a certain point

- Splits - S,T & U
  - 001S, 002T, 003U

- Separate State filters for survey types
  - Pre-Surveys
  - Round Surveys
  - Group B

# ECOS Enhancements 2005 (cont)

- Redesign of User Manuals
  - Split into Functional Areas

- Separate release to address Issues with the Complaints component
  - To help FNS HQ respond and resolve complaints more efficiently

- Summary End Product Data Schedule
  - SEPDS available at State level

Coming soon

- On-line training
    - Replace PDF manuals with more user friendly option

- Phase I of Multi-food ordering
    - Ordering of Multi-food through ECOS

- Redesign of ECOS catalogs
    - Direct Shipment
    - Processing Diversion
    - Multi-food

- State controlled organization layer between SDA & RA
    - Option for states to group like RAs under one org.

Coming soon (cont)

- Reports
  - Many, many requests

- Bulletin Board on Pre-Surveys

- End product ordering

- USDA & FNS initiatives
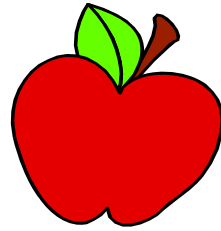
Welcome to

"Learning About ECOS"

Electronic Commodity Ordering System

What you will learn:

- **How to Log In and Change Your Password**
- **How to Create an ID for Your Assistant**
- **How to Check Your Entitlement Dollar Balance**
- **How to Order Non-Processed Commodities**
- **How to Order Processed Commodities**
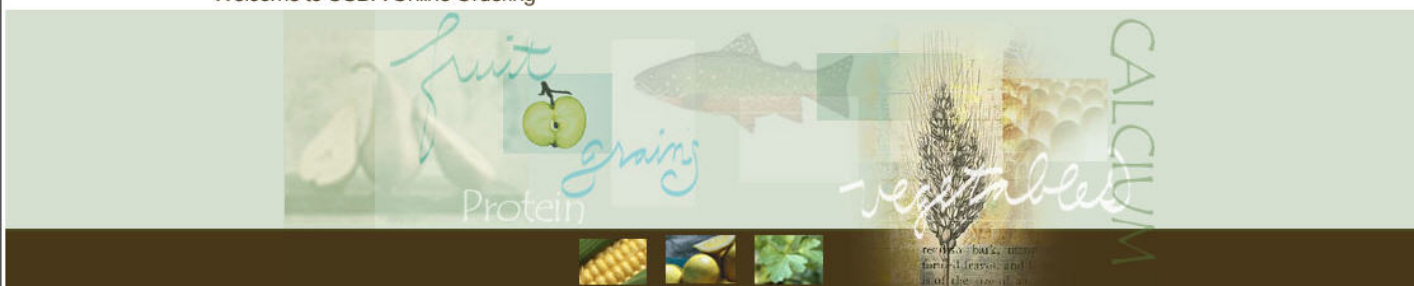- **How to Check the Status of a Request**

ECOS training web site:

http://training.usdaservices.eds-gov.com/
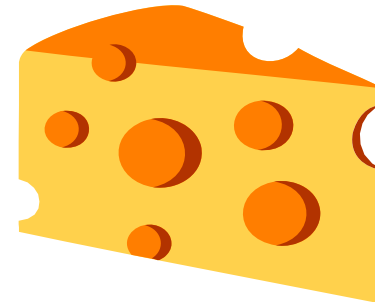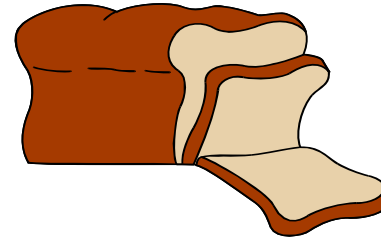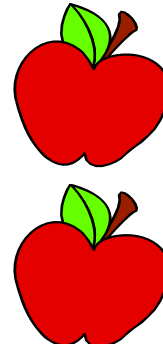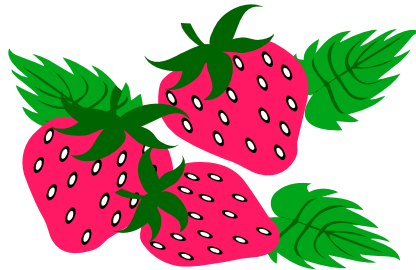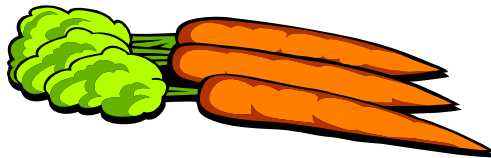
TRAINING

USDA Electronic **Commodity Ordering System**

Welcome to USDA Online Ordering

Login:
Password:

Login

Or enter as a guest and browse our catalog.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service was established to provide:

- needy people with access to a more nutritious diet
- improve the eating habits of the nation's children
- stabilize farm prices through the distribution of surplus foods

The Food Distribution Division at FNS Headquarters works with Regional Offices and State Distributing Agencies to determine the commodities available to the many different food assistance programs.

The mission of the Food Distribution Division is to strengthen the nutrition safety net through commodity distribution and other nutrition assistance to low-income families, emergency feeding programs, Indian Reservations, and the elderly.

Accessibility Statement | Privacy and Security Policy | Nondiscrimination Statement | FOIA | USDA

Login Page

Enter Login ID and password. Note that the web address shown in the address bar above is for the TRAINING web site where you should practice entering requests. There is also a PRODUCTION web site with a different web address you will use for your <u>real</u> requisitions. The production web site does <u>not</u> <u>have</u> the word TRAINING on each page the way the training site does.

Background

The Electronic Commodity Ordering System (ECOS) is a Government automated information system that supports the USDA in its objectives to distribute quality, cost-effective nutrition products. ECOS is the new way that schools will order their USDA commodities.

ECOS includes the following detailed functions for schools:

.**Administration**
▪Create, modify, and delete users within your own organization
▪Create a unique organization profile and preferences to meet your needs
▪Manage information flow through contact management, e-mail notification, and entitlement tracking

.**Product Catalog**
▪Requisition creation and fulfillment
▪Requisition approval capability triggered by dollar thresholds
▪State level management of orders for delivery periods, quantities, and delivery locations

.**Security**
▪Role based authorizations
▪User IDs and passwords

.**Reports**
▪ECOS provides the ability to produce various reports including:
-Status of Food Order (State) and Requisition (Recipient Agency)
-Entitlement Status
-Commodities
-Administration
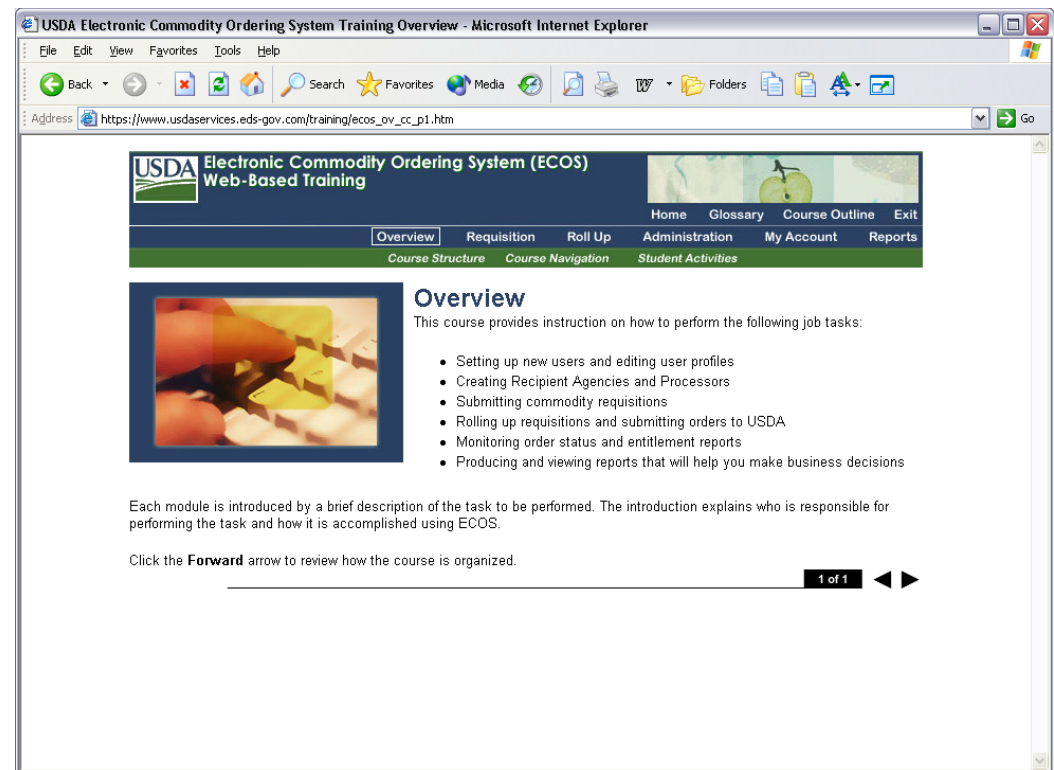
Functional Capabilities

ECOS is an evolution of USDA's food ordering system previously used in the state offices which now allows the schools to place orders themselves.

ECOS uses a commercial commerce Web environment that offers the following benefits to users:

• Shopping cart, with the ability to save work for future completion
• Menu driven catalog system
• Intuitive look and feel common to Web and desktop applications

Customer Benefits

The ECOS functional areas support a standardized USDA process for commodity availability, requisition, reporting, and flow down of organizational process management. This enhances timely communications between organizations ordering commodities and the supply side support for fulfilling demand driven orders.

This system was also designed and developed to assist users in reducing the time required to perform day-to-day activities related to the USDA commodity program.

Customer Benefits (cont.)

Features that contribute to the time and labor savings are:

• Schools are able to access the USDA system themselves for more timely ordering of commodities
• Schools can check latest status of their requests
• Schools can check entitlement dollar balance
• Enhanced speed and availability through public Internet access
• State agencies benefit from quicker response from schools and from reduction in paperwork
• Background printing allows users to perform other tasks while waiting for print jobs to complete

Almost Real Agency
Welcome | Log out
Role(s): System Admin, Org Admin

Training | Site Map | Links | Home

Administration | My Account | Product Catalog | Reports | Current Requisition

Administration > Create New User

Create New User

Complete the form below to create a new user for **Almost Real Agency**. The Login ID must be at least eight characters in length. Passwords must be at least eight characters in length, contain at least one upper case letter, one lower case letter and one number. Click the **Create** button to create a new user. Click **Cancel** to abort this operation and to return to the Administration menu.

Create New User

Name(first,middle,last): [   ] [ ] [   ]
Login(must be unique): [   ]
Password: [   ]
Confirm Password: [   ]
Email: [   ] (Optional)
Business Address: [   ]
[   ] (Optional)
[   ] (Optional)
City: [   ]
State: [ ]
Zip Code: [   ] (Optional)
Phone: [   ] (999-999-9999)
Phone Ext: [   ] (Optional)(9999)
Fax: [   ] (Optional)(999-999-9999)
Role(s): ☐ Org Admin
☐ Read Only
☐ System Admin
☐ User
Approvals: ☐ Require approval for all orders over purchase limit.
Approver(s): ☐ John Doe (Doejohn1)
☐ Lonnie McMillan (LM000001)
Purchase Limit: [   ]
Program(s): ☐ Schools(SCH)
Default Program: [Schools ▼]

[Create] [Cancel]

For Your Reference | ECOS Training | Site Map | Links | Home | Contact Us

Create User

- Users need e-mail addresses to receive notices

- Explanation of Roles:
- **System Administrator**: Initially created based on the information provided. Controls the other roles, passwords, works with user information. Does not request foods.
- **Organization Administrator**: Add as needed. Able to edit agency profile, and release food requisitions, can request foods.
- **User**: Can create requisitions and view reports. System Administrator sets up users needed. Users can submit requisitions if within their approval authority.
- **Read Only**: Only view food catalog and reports. Set up read only users needed.

- Purchase Limit:
- An optional feature which allows the keyed requisitions to be held back for approval by the Organization Administrator. Any requisition value greater than the purchase limit will require approval.

ECOS

Easy Come On Soon !